Honorable Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait’s national statement under agenda item 13.4.

The State of Kuwait expresses its gratitude to the Director General, the World Health Organization, and all its members for their dedication over the past two years in finalizing the WHO Pandemic Treaty for Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.

Diseases do not recognize borders, and health emergencies have a significant impact on global health and well-being. This applies to all risks affecting public health, including natural disasters, climate change-related events, wars, and conflicts. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the gaps in global health systems, revealing inadequate response
mechanisms and a lack of a clear, cooperative global approach to health challenges.

Kuwait’s commitment to global health efforts is not a fleeting realization or mere slogan but a genuine, practical commitment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kuwait enhanced its healthcare system, implemented comprehensive government responses, and ensured early access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Internationally, Kuwait contributed to global pandemic preparedness and response by providing grants and financial assistance through the Kuwait Fund for Development to numerous countries.

Kuwait supported the establishment of an epidemics center in Africa and contributed to global efforts to ensure equitable vaccine access for low- and middle-income countries. It also supported the precautionary and preventive measures of the WHO and deferred debt repayments for low-income countries to help them combat the pandemic. Kuwait’s total contributions to combating the pandemic amounted to approximately 288 million US dollars.
This ongoing commitment extends beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Kuwait is one of the largest donors to the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE). We believe that the WHO Pandemic Agreement aims to strengthen global preparedness, readiness, response, and resilience through governance, accountability, continuous review of measures by neutral experts, sustainable funding, and the development of strong, just, and inclusive health systems.

We acknowledge that there is always room for improvement and development. By managing global health emergencies effectively and strengthening epidemic prevention, preparedness, and response, we can minimize the impact of epidemics on our populations, communities, and economies.

Thank you, Chair.